Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): A method for determining vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) activity in a sample, said method comprising the steps of:

a) Contacting a sample to be assayed for VEGF activity with a stable HeLa cell line wherein the stable HeLa cell line comprises;

1) a reporter vector having; an expressible reporter element and a DNA binding site disposed adjacent thereto and,

2) a chimeric transactivator vector comprising

a gene encoding a phosphorylatable protein that can be phosphorylated by MAPK and a DNA binding domain which specifically binds to the DNA binding site, and

3) an expression vector encoding a gene for a VEGF receptor; and

b) detecting expression of the reporter element, wherein expression of the reporter element indicates VEGF activity.

Claim 2 (original): A method according to Claim 1, wherein the reporter vector further comprises a GAL4 binding element.

Claim 3 (original): A method according to Claim 2, wherein the reporter vector comprises a gene encoding for a detectable product.

Claim 4 (original): A method according to Claim 3, wherein the detectable product comprises luciferase.

Claim 5 (original): A method according to Claim 3, wherein the gene encoding for the detectable product is operably linked to a promoter element.

Claim 6 (original): A method according to Claim 5, wherein the promoter element comprises a TATA box.

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein the phosphorylatable protein is ELK-1.

Claim 9. (Previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein the gene encoding for the phosphorylatable protein is operably linked to a promoter element.

Claim 10. (Original): A method according to Claim 1, wherein VEGF receptor comprises FLK-1.

Claim 11. (Original): A method according to Claim 1, wherein the VEGF receptor encoding gene is operably linked to a promoter element.

Claim 12. (Original): A method according to Claim 11, wherein the VEGF receptor encoding gene is FLK-1.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein said contacting step further comprises binding VEGF present in the sample with the expressed VEGF receptor.

Claim 15. (Previously presented): A method according to Claim 14, wherein said contacting the sample step further comprises activating MAPK with the expressed VEFG receptor.

Claim 16. (Original): A method according to Claim 15, further comprising the step of expressing the trans-activator vector to produce a chimeric product comprising the phosphorylatable protein and DNA binding domain.

Claim 17. (Original): A method according to Claim 16, further comprising the step of phosphorylating the chimeric product with the activated MAPK.

Claim 18. (Original): A method according to Claim 17, further comprising the step of binding the phosphorylated chimeric product to the DNA binding site of the reporter vector, wherein expression of the expressible reporter element is activated indicating the presence of VEGF in the sample.

Claim 19. (Original): A method according to Claim 1, wherein the sample comprises biological fluids.

Claim 20. (Original): A method according to Claim 19, wherein the biological fluids comprise plasma or cell culture media.

Claim 21. (Previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein the sample comprises cells, tissue, tissue extracts or combinations thereof.

Claim 22. (Previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein the VEGF activity is detectable at a VEGF concentration of >1 mg/mL.

Claim 23. (Previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein the VEGF activity is detectable at a VEGF concentration range between approximately 1 ng/mL to approximately 200 ng/mL.

Claim 24. (Previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of incubating the sample with the stable Hela cell line for a period of time ranging from approximately 4 hours to approximately 24 hours.

Claim 25. (Previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of incubating the sample with the stable Hela cell line for a period of time ranging from approximately 10 hours to approximately 20 hours.

Claims 26-49 (Cancelled)

Claim 50. (Original): A stable cell line transfected with a reporter vector encoding a luciferase gene and a GAL4 DNA binding site; a chimeric transactivator vector encoding for an ELK-1/GAL4 DNA binding domain fusion protein; and a vector encoding for VEGF receptor FLK-1.